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Extract from OTR Weekly Summary Report to DCI dated 3 August 1953

1. The trend continues toward overpopulation of the Basic Training Courses and underpopulation of the Advanced Specialized Courses. The new running of Phase I began on 27 July with 117 students, to be handled by five instructors. The running of Phase II which concludes on 31 July has been filled, with some applicants turned away; the running of 17 August is already filled (76 enrollments) with a sizeable waiting list; the October running already has 43 students enrolled. The pressure on Phase III is such that every regularly scheduled recent running has been filled beyond the reasonable capacity (dictated by room space) of 50 students. OTR gave an extra running of this course in July and is now forced to plan another extra running in September or October. The 17 August running of the Administrative Support Course is already filled beyond capacity, with a sizeable waiting list, and an extra running will have to be scheduled for September. All this overcrowding is the result of vigilant efforts by the Clandestine Services to enforce its recently raised standards of training requirements; but if the trend continues, as there is every reason to expect it will, the quality of training will suffer from either too large classes, too frequent runnings, or both.

One reason for the excessive pressure on Phase III is that it is expected to accommodate both students from Phase II and returnees and other veterans of the Agency. This cannot be done under the present limitations of space and staff; and even if it could, would have to continue an unsatisfactory compromise between the widely different needs of the two types of employees. Therefore, OTR intends to move Phase III [REDACTED] by January 1954 (thus increasing to the maximum the use of [REDACTED] physical facilities), and treat it as a basic course for new employees only; and at the same time institute a new refresher course in Washington for returnees and other personnel of long standing. Whether or not such a move is made, however, the only answer to our problem - and that of the Clandestine Services - is a substantial increase in the instructor staff.

2. By contrast, the enrollments in the advanced specialized training courses continues to be disappointingly small. Some typical examples of current enrollments: Staff Maritime Orientation Course, four students; Escape and Evasion, five; [REDACTED] four; Clandestine Fieldcraft Activities, running of 24 August, eight (previous running was cancelled because only three students were enrolled); Order of Battle, four; Air Operations, seven; Staybehind (24 August), one. If these courses are not better attended, it will be highly uneconomical for OTR to continue presenting them. A few of the instructors could be transferred to the basic courses to relieve the shortage of staff there, but most of them are specialists of a type who could not properly serve in other than their present capacities.

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One outstanding exception among the advanced courses is the revived Counter Espionage Course which will be offered on 10 August [REDACTED]

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The course is already oversubscribed to the point where we must displace some accepted students to make room for people who need it more; we expect that for a long time to come the demand will be considerably greater than a single instructor can satisfy. For this reason, and because in any case CIA should not limit its CE training to a single basic course of three weeks, OTR would like to have assigned to it [REDACTED] and Mr. Thomas [REDACTED] two old CE hands of the [REDACTED] who are returning PCS to Washington within the next few months.

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